

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A decoy device for wake-following torpedoes, the device comprising a body of effervescent material that reacts with sea water to generate a cloud of bubbles simulating a phoney wake, wherein the effervescent material has grains in a size range of less than 100 µm, the device being characterized in that it has a covering of material that is soluble in sea water which delays the reaction of the effervescent material with sea water.
2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the covering is made of organic material.
3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, characterized in that a thickness of the covering is calibrated so that when said device is immersed, the effervescent material begins to react with sea water only after said device is immersed for a predetermined length of time.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) A device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the covering is made of a material which is hydroxypropymethyl cellulose or a derivative thereof, a gum of vegetable or animal origin, a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly (N-vinylpyrrolidone), a poly (ethylene oxide), or a mixture thereof.
6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material comprises a mixture of tartaric acid and of sodium hydrogen carbonate.
7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material comprises a mixture of citric acid and of sodium hydrogen carbonate.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 7, characterized in that the mixture is substantially stoichiometric.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material includes a lubricant.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material is such that the bubbles generated thereby at a depth of 10 meters are of dimensions lying in the range 30 μm to 50 μm .

12. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that it further includes ballast-forming means, for the purpose of enabling it to sink faster.

13. (Previously Presented) A torpedo decoy method comprising dispersing decoy devices in the sea from the air,

wherein each device comprises a body of effervescent material that reacts with sea water to generate a cloud of bubbles simulating a phoney wake, each device being characterized in that it has a covering of material that is soluble in sea water which delays the reaction of the effervescent material with sea water.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the devices are dispersed on either side of the axis of the wake (S) of the ship so as to constitute phoney wakes (FS) meeting the wake (S) of the ship.

15. (Previously Presented) A decoy device for wake-following torpedoes, the device comprising a body of effervescent material that reacts with sea water to generate a cloud of bubbles simulating a phoney wake, the device being characterized in that it has a covering made of an organic material that is soluble in sea water which delays the reaction of the effervescent material with sea water; and

wherein a thickness of the covering is calibrated so that when said device is immersed, the effervescent material begins to react with sea water only after said

device has been sinking for a predetermined length of time and is at a depth of about 10 meters.

16. (Previously Presented) A decoy device for wake-following torpedoes, the device comprising a body of effervescent material that reacts with sea water to generate a cloud of bubbles simulating a phoney wake, the device being characterized in that it has a covering made of an organic material which is hydroxypropymethyl cellulose or a derivative thereof, a gum of vegetable or animal origin, a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly (N-vinylpyrrolidone), a poly (ethylene oxide), or a mixture thereof, that is soluble in sea water which delays the reaction of the effervescent material with sea water; and

wherein a thickness of the covering is calibrated so that when said device is immersed, the effervescent material begins to react with sea water only after said device has been sinking for a predetermined length of time and is at a depth of about 10 meters.